

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 19-20 stand rejected. Applicants have canceled Claims 9-18 and 21-24 without prejudice as being directed to non-elected inventions, and have amended Claims 19 and 20. Thus, Claims 1-8 and 19-20 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 19 and 20 were rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended both claims to clarify that the claimed subject matter is not software per se. In view of the proposed claim amendments, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejections under §35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Freund (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,611) in view of Reisman (U.S. Patent No. 6,769,009)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 and 19-20 as being obvious over Freund in view of Reisman. Applicants note that the priority date of the above captioned patent application precedes the filing date of USPN 6,769,009 to Reisman but is after the filing date of USPN 6,594,692 to Reisman. USPN 6,769,009 is a continuation application of USPN 6,594,692.

The Examiner cited Freund for disclosing a timer based method of controlling user access to the Internet. Freund is further cited for suggesting “that it may be beneficial to limit access based on the content category of Internet sites.” However, Freund merely “prohibits access to a specific list of sites.” Col. 9, line 13. Freund does not mention providing timed access to the listed sites or organizing the listed sites into categories.

Freund describes a system and method for client-based monitoring and filtering of access, which operates in conjunction with a centralized enforcement supervisor. A client side filter controlled by the centralized enforcement supervisor is employed. See col. 12, lines 45-54. Freund describes allowing timed access based on connection time to the Internet or interactive use time with the Internet. See col. 13, lines 2-10. Freund does not employ categories or even a list of uniform resource locators (URLs) in its process of allowing timed access to the Internet.

Separately from providing timed access, Freund discloses using a simple go/no go list of URLs to prevent access. Freund discloses an example where the list of URLs includes Internet

pornographic sites. See col. 9, lines 38-41. Nowhere does Freund even mention the list of URLs contains multiple content categories or mention the use of a timer in combination with Internet pornographic sites. Freund is not allowing timed access to the list of URLs. Freund only discloses preventing access to the list of URLs. As explained above, timed access is employed in connection with all Internet content, not with content categories. Accordingly, there is no time tracking of user access to even one category of Internet sites. Further, Freund does not disclose how one would combine its list of go/no go URLs with the time related rules disclosed in Freund since the time related rules are in no way associated with the content of the requested site.

Reisman is cited for “restricting access based on the content category of Internet sites.” The Office Action identifies Reisman for teachings “regarding limiting access to content categories.” However, Reisman simply screens external links or Get URL requests so that the requests “can be denied or filtered out.” Col. 53, line 1. As with the system in Freund, the system in Reisman prevents access to a list of URLs and does not employ categories in a screening process that provides timed access. Freund and Reisman teach preventing access to “pornographic sites” and “inappropriate content,” respectively. Further, to the extent that Freund discloses timed access, Freund itself does not combine timed access with its list of go/no go URLs. Reisman does not teach timed access. Thus, neither Freund or Reisman, nor a combination of Freund with Reisman teaches a system that uses content categories to provide timed access.

Applicants’ Background of the Invention section explains the disadvantages to client side filtering systems that employ a database containing URL addresses of sites to be blocked. The prior art systems, such as Freund and Reisman, match a URL request against the database of blocked or allowed sites. Any URL found in the database may not be accessed by the user. Unfortunately, such systems rely on the database of accessed sites to be complete and accessible to the client computer so that each URL can be found on the list. Unlike the prior art, the advantages of the method recited in Claim 1 include limiting access to groups (i.e. categories) of URLs based on time which provides filtering flexibility.

Accordingly, the applied references do not disclose or teach at least the steps recited in Claims 1 and 19. Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

Dependent Claims 2-8 and 20 depend directly or indirectly from one of Claims 1 and 19 and, thus, each is patentable for at least the same reasons that the claim from which it depends is patentable over the applied art. Therefore, allowance of dependent Claims 2-8 and 20 is also respectfully requested.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

The claims of the present application are different and possibly broader in scope than any issued claims in any related patent. In related U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/494,315, the Applicants amended claims and received allowance over prior art. To the extent that any amendments or characterizations of the scope of any claim or referenced art could be construed as a disclaimer of any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, Applicants hereby rescind and retract such disclaimer. Accordingly, the applied art in the related patent may need to be re-visited.

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action is inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Any remarks in support of patentability of one claim should not be imputed to any other claim, even if similar terminology is used. Additionally, any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim should not be understood to base patentability on solely that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole. Applicants respectfully traverse each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art

discloses or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although changes to the claims have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter.

Applicants have not presented all arguments concerning whether the applied references can be properly combined in view of the clearly missing elements noted above, and Applicants reserve the right to later contest whether a proper reason exists to combine these references and to submit evidence relating to secondary considerations supporting the non-obviousness of the outboard motor induction system recited by the pending claims.

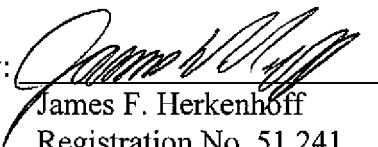
The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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